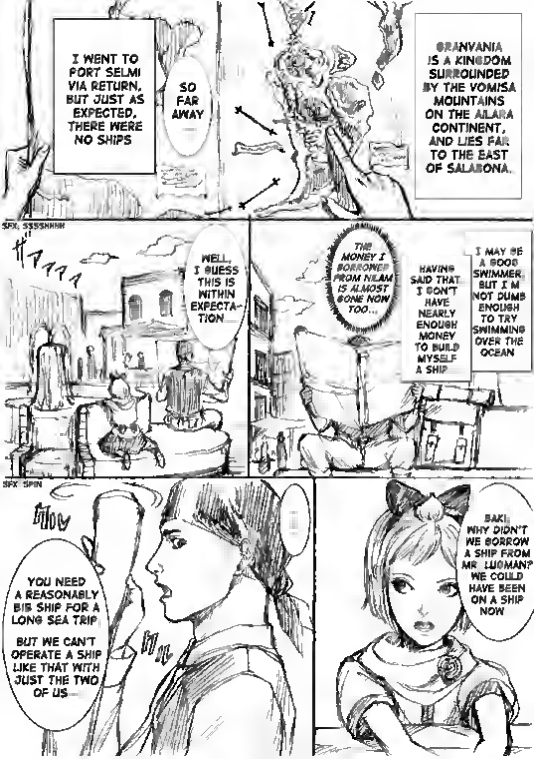
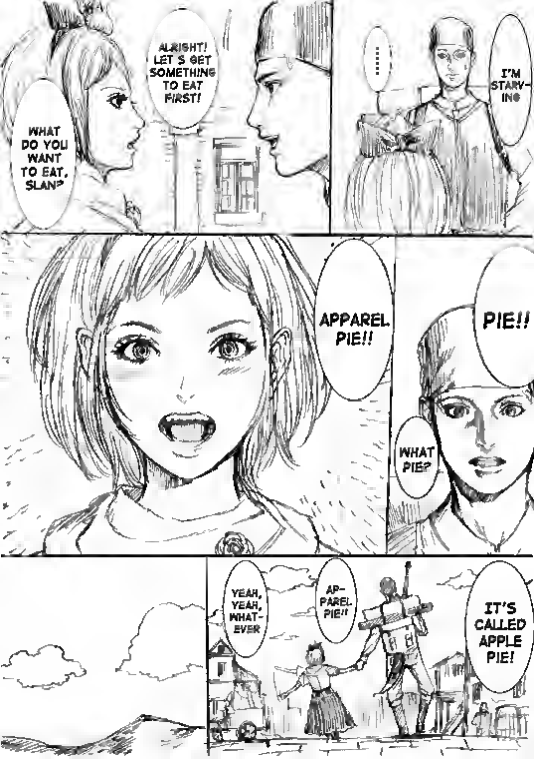
Volume 3
Chapter 22


I WENT TO PORT SELMI VIA RETURN, BUT JUST AS EXPECTED, THERE WERE NO SHIPS
SO FAR AWAY
GRANVANIA IS A KINGDOM SURROUNDED BY THE VOMISA MOUNTAINS ON THE ALARA CONTINENT, AND LIES FAR TO THE EAST OF SALAMONA.
SFX: SSSSHHHH
SFX: TTTTT
WELL, I GUESS THIS IS WITHIN EXPECTATION
THE MONEY I BORROWED FROM NOAH IS ALMOST GONE NOW TOO...
HAVING SAID THAT, I DON'T HAVE NEARLY ENOUGH MONEY TO BUILD MYSELF A SHIP
I MAY BE A GOOD SWIMMER, BUT I'M NOT DUMB ENOUGH TO TRY SWIMMING OVER THE OCEAN
SFX: SPIN
YOU NEED A REASONABLY BIG SHIP FOR A LONG SEA TRIP
BUT WE CAN'T OPERATE A SHIP LIKE THAT WITH JUST THE TWO OF US
BAKI: WHY DIDN'T WE BORROW A SHIP FROM MR. LUOMAN? WE COULD HAVE BEEN ON A SHIP NOW

SEA MONSTERS HAVE BEEN SINKING ALL SHIPS ON SEA LATELY AND MANY PEOPLE HAVE DIED.
THE SEA IS TOO DANGEROUS NOW ANYWAY
WELL, NOW YOU KNOW WHY I TURNED DOWN THE OFFER
YEAH
THAT MEANS, WE NEED A CREW, SEE?
WE CAN'T TAKE ANYONE ELSE WITH US ON A SEA TRIP AS RISKY AS THAT
THERE'S NO GUARANTEE THAT OUR SHIP OR ANY SHIP WOULD REACH GRANVANIA IN ONE PIECE...
.....FRIENDS, HUH...
BAK!
YEAH, IF ONLY
IF WE ONLY HAD ENOUGH STRONG FRIENDS TO BUILD A CREW, RIGHT?
LET'S LOOK FOR OTHER WAYS!!
NO NEED TO WORRY THOUGH! SAILING BY SHIP CAN'T BE THE ONLY WAY TO GET THERE
GROWL...
WHAT?
OKAY!

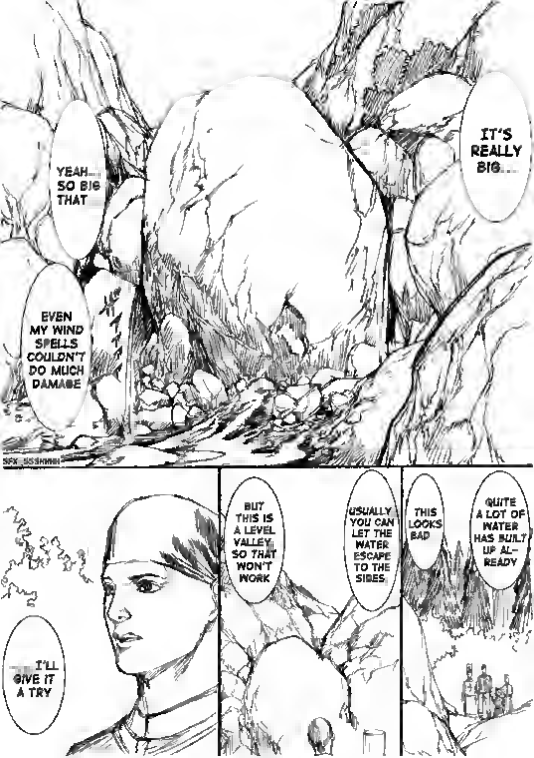

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO EAT, SLAN?
ALRIGHT! LET'S GET SOMETHING TO EAT FIRST!
.....
I'M STARVING
APPAREL PIE!!
PIE!!
WHAT PIE?
YEAH, YEAH, WHATEVER
APPAREL PIE!!
IT'S CALLED APPLE PIE!

WE THEN ARRIVED IN ALCAPA.
IT WAS MY FIRST VISIT IN A YEAR.
HELLO!!
!?
OHH! BAKI!? HOW LONG HAS IT BEEN!!
HEY!! PAS-TOR!!
?
BAKI'S BACK!
EH!?
HEY
IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME
OHH
THANK THE LORD

BAR
IT'S REALLY BEEN A LONG TIME
HA HA HA ...
THE PASTOR EVEN WENT AS FAR AS THANKING THE LORD AND CAME RUNNING TO HUG ME
I SEE
I'M GLAD THE MONEY I GAVE YOU WAS OF USE TO YOU
YEAH... SURE...
I GAVE THE PASTOR A SUMMARY OF MY JOURNEY.
OBVIOUSLY I LEFT OUT THE LITTLE DETAIL ABOUT HOW I GAMBLED AWAY ALL HIS MONEY IN A CASINO.
WELL, A LOT HAS HAPPENED, BUT YEAH I'M MAKING PROGRESS.
...HOW DID YOUR JOURNEY GO AFTER THAT?
WHOA WHOA WHOA WHOA!!
SLAN, SORRY FOR MAKING YOU WAIT!!
SFX: RUN

IT TOOK ME SOME TIME TO EXPLAIN SLAN'S BACK-GROUND STORY.
WHAT A CUTE YOUNG LADY
YEAH TOO CUTE!
BUT BOTH THE PASTOR AND MISS SERIA WERE VERY UNDER-STANDING
HMM
Y-YOU THINK SO?
THANK YOU VERY MUCH
BY THE WAY WHERE ARE ALL THE VILLAGERS?
THE VILLAGE IS SO QUIET TODAY
YOU LOOK EVEN MORE LIVELY AND CONFIDENT THAN LAST TIME. IT'S PROOF THAT YOU'VE GAINED VALUABLE EXPERI-ENCE
AH THEY'VE ALL GONE TO THE MOUN-TAINS
THE MOUN-TAINS?

HEY GUYS
WELL-COME BACK !!
OH, ISN'T THAT BAKI !?
IT'S HOPE-LESS IT WON'T EVEN BUDGE
HOW DID IT GO?
WHICH CAUSED THE RIVER NEAR THE VILLAGE TO DAM UP
ACCORDING TO THE PASTOR, THERE WAS A LAND-SLIDE A FEW DAYS ARO DUE TO HEAVY RAINFALL.
SFX CREAK
OH, LOOKS LIKE SOME OF THEM HAVE RETURN-ED
WE SHOULD JUST RIVE UP AND EVACUATE EVERY-ONE
AND IT WILL BURST OPEN SOONER OR LATER WHEN ENOUGH WATER HAS BUILT UP
BUT IF WE DON'T REMOVE IT SOON WE'LL GET HIT BY A FLASH FLOOD!
THAT ROCK IS TOO BIG TO BE BROKEN BY MAN-POWER
APPARENTLY AN EXTREME-LY BIG ROCK IS BLOCKING THE RIVER.
SFX DRIP DRIP DRIP
SFX SST
UMM— CAN I GO AND TAKE A LOOK AT IT?
SURE BUT YOU'D BETTER BE CARE-FUL...
I'LL GO TOO
ME TOO!


IT'S REALLY BIG...
YEAH... SO BIG THAT
EVEN MY WIND SPELLS COULDN'T DO MUCH DAMAGE
SFX: SSSHHH!
THIS LOOKS BAD
QUITE A LOT OF WATER HAS BUILT UP ALREADY
USUALLY YOU CAN LET THE WATER ESCAPE TO THE SIDES.
BUT THIS IS A LEVEL VALLEY, SO THAT WON'T WORK
I'LL GIVE IT A TRY

THIS ROCK IN TWO!!
I'LL BREAK
TRY WHAT?
EH?
EH? S-SURE, OKAY
MISS SERIA! COULD YOU PLEASE GO WARN THE VILLAGERS!?
SFX SKITTER
WAIT, BAK!!
I GOT THIS!!
PLEASE, JUST LEAVE IT TO ME!
CAN YOU REALLY DO IT?

BUT HOW WILL YOU BREAK IT? WITH MAGIC?
BUT CAN HE REALLY DO IT?
HE LOOKS LIKE THAT TIME...
NO...
I'LL USE MY BATTLE AURA!!
BATTLE AURA...
WHAT HE USED THAT TIME
THIS ROCK IS JUST TOO BIG
BUT THIS ROCK IS WAY BIGGER THAN THAT MONSTER FROM THAT TIME...

BUT
THE PROBLEM IS WHAT I'LL DO AFTER THAT...
I'M PRETTY SURE I CAN DO IT...
FOO...
TOO SLOW!!
I CAN DO IT... I KNOW I CAN DO IT!!
I HAVEN'T TRAINED IT AFTER LEARNING HOW TO USE IT...
IF YOU'RE THIS SLOW
WHOA!!
SFX: WHIP
SFX: SWISH
DAMN IT...
HEY, HEY WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?
YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'RE STANDING STILL TO ME!!
SFX: TWIP

SFX THUMP
YOU
WON'T SURVIVE AGAINST MONSTERS!!
SFX FLIP
UGH!
SHIT
!!?
SFX THIP

OH SHIT!
GET READY, BAKI!!
WHAT IS WITH THIS POWER!?
!!?

SFX: THUMP
SFX: WHACK
GLIH
HOW IS IT? NOT BAD, EH?
UHH!

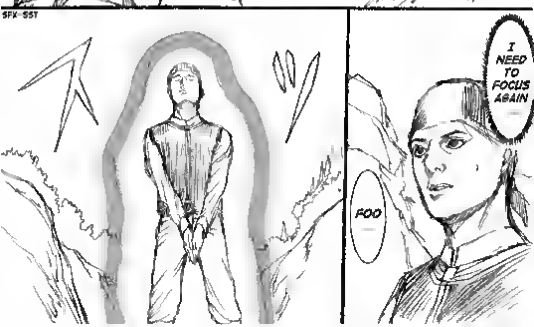
YES
THIS IS THE LIGHT OF LIFE
IS THAT THE BATTLE AURA YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT?
UMM, YOUR FOOT IS GLOWING...
COUSIN
OFFENSIVE LIFE ENERGY?
IT'S AN EXTREME SKILL THAT ONLY THOSE WHO HAVE MASTERED THE ART OF FIGHTING CAN USE
TO PUT IT SIMPLY, BATTLE AURA IS OFFENSIVE LIFE ENERGY! YOU CAN USE IT TO TURN YOUR OWN BODY INTO A WEAPON STRONGER THAN ANY OTHER...
THAT'S BECAUSE YOU HAVE TO ALIGN YOUR SPIRIT WITH YOUR LIFE ENERGY AS IF THEY WERE ONE FOR THE ENTIRE DURATION OF THE SKILL.
THIS MAY SOUND SIMPLE, BUT IS A VERY D--ICULT THING TO DO
TO USE BATTLE AURA, YOU HAVE TO FOCUS YOUR SPIRIT ON BURNING YOUR LIFE ENERGY AS IF IT WAS FUEL.
AS IF THEY WERE ONE...?
YES, AS IF THEY WERE ONE ...

WHEN WE'RE SICK OR INJURED, DEPENDING ON HOW WE FEEL, WE MAY BE ABLE TO SPEED UP THE HEALING PROCESS A BIT, BUT IT'S NOT POSSIBLE TO INSTANTLY HEAL UP...
FOR INSTANCE, WHEN WE'RE TIRED, WE CAN TELL OURSELVES TO STAY AWAKE FOR A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF TIME, BUT WE CAN'T CONTROL IT COMPLETELY
FOR LIVING BEINGS, THE MIND AND BODY ARE TWO DISTINCT ENTITIES
...MY HEAD IS ABOUT TO EXPLODE
...CAN YOU FOLLOW ME SO FAR?
FOR STARTERS LET ME EXPLAIN THAT PART IN DETAIL
YOUR MIND AND BODY, YOUR SPIRIT AND LIFE ENERGY... ALBEIT CLOSELY LINKED, THEY CAN'T BE ONE, AND YET THEY'RE WHAT YOU HAVE TO BUNDLE TO ACTIVATE YOUR BATTLE AURA
AHH!! THAT!!
YOU PIERCED A THICK LOG WITH YOUR SPEAR, OR DID YOU FORGET!?
HUHP WHAT YOU TAUGHT ME...?
...YOU'VE MASTERED WHAT I TAUGHT YOU, HAVEN'T YOU?
SAY... IT'S KINDA LATE TO ASK, BUT WHY WAS I ABLE TO USE MY BATTLE AURA IN THE FIRST PLACE? I MEAN, I HAVEN'T MASTERED THE ART OF FIGHTING OR ANYTHING. THE ONLY THING I'VE MASTERED IS THE ART OF STARTING BONFIRES ...

...AS ALWAYS, I CAN'T DECIDE IF HE'S A GOOD STUDENT OR NOT...
HMM
I HAVE NO IDEA HOW I DID IT...
PLUS I PASSED OUT SOON AFTER. SO I DON'T REMEMBER MUCH...
WELL, I'M SUPPOSED TO HAVE USED IT IN ALCAPA TOO BUT THAT WAS IN THE MIDDLE OF A BATTLE
...I SEE...
AFTER ALL, A NORMAL PERSON WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO KEEP TENDING TO A BONFIRE FOR MORE THAN TEN YEARS STRAIGHT...
YOU MIGHT HAVE ATTAINED A MENTAL STATE THAT'S SIMILAR TO THAT OF THOSE WHO'VE MASTERED THE ART OF FIGHTING
...I CAN'T EXPLAIN IT WELL, BUT IN THE TEN SOMETHING YEARS YOU SPENT AS A BONFIRE NEET,
SINCE YOU'VE USED YOUR BATTLE AURA A FEW TIMES ALREADY THE ONLY THING THAT'S LEFT IS TO LEARN TO CONTROL IT
LET'S SKIP RIGHT TO THE PRACTICE
I WAS PLANNING ON GOING INTO MORE DETAIL ABOUT THE THEORY OF BATTLE AURA, BUT...
I GOT THAT!
HE HE HE
YOU'RE BASICALLY SAYING THAT I'M AMAZING, RIGHT!?
FOR NOW YOU'LL BE WORKING ON DRAWING OUT YOUR BATTLE AURA FASTER AND CONTROLLING IT
!?
YOU PASSED OUT IN ALCAPA BECAUSE YOU HAD DRAINED YOURSELF OF ALMOST ALL LIFE ENERGY ANY MORE AND YOU COULD HAVE DIED

A SPECIAL MOVE!?
IF YOU LEARN IT QUICKLY, I'LL EVEN TEACH YOU A SPECIAL MOVE
LET'S SEE HOW YOU DO FIRST
HEH NOW I GOT YOUR ATTENTION, HUH?
SFX: SWISH
THE NAME IS...
NAME..? WHO CARES ABOUT THE NAME..?
I DO! COME ON, TELL ME!
WHAT IS THE SPECIAL MOVE CALLED? WHAT'S ITS NAME?

SFX: STINK
I STEPPED ON POO
BAK!
WOAH!!!
I-I'LL CLEAN IT FOR YOU LATER OKAY!?
GIVE ME A BREAK
BUT THERE IS POO ON MY SHOE
I'M SORRY
SLAN, IT'S DANGEROUS TO BE NEXT TO HIM RIGHT NOW!!


SFX: SST
I NEED TO FOCUS AGAIN
POO

!!?
HNGH
ALL RIGHT !!
SPE-CIAL ...

GIGASLASH
闘気斬!!
ギガスラッシュ

SFX: BOOM
DID IT WORK...?
!!?
SFX: CRACK

RE-
TURN
SFX: BWOOSH
BAKI!!
SFX: SSSHHHH
!!
SFX: SPLISH
IT'S AN ANCIENT SPELL CALLED "RETURN"
OR SO THE PERSON WHO TAUGHT IT TO ME SAID
I'VE NEVER HEARD OF THAT SPELL
SFX: SSSHHHH
AH SORRY IF I SURPRISED YOU, BUT IT WAS JUST A MAGIC SPELL. I USED A MAGIC SPELL TO MOVE HERE
!?
HUH !?

THANK YOU, BAKI, WITH THIS ALCAPA WAS SAVED BY YOU TWICE ALREADY!
NO
THAT'S A WONDER-FUL SPELL
IT'S WHAT ANYONE WOULD
FOR A MOMENT I REALLY THOUGHT THAT WE'D LOST YOU THERE...
SFX: WHOOSH
SFX: WOBBLE
!!?
SFX: THUD
BAKI!!
BA-BAKI!!!
HAVE
...
DONE

Appendix:

Characters in chapter 22:

Baki

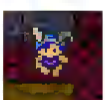
Slan

Nilam

Ludman (Briscaletti)

Pastar

Seria



Sypher

Spells in chapter 22:

- Return (Zaam)

Skills in chapter 22:

- Gigaslash

Lacations in chapter 22:

- Salabana (Mastraferrata)
- Granvania (Gatha)
- Part Selmi (Ladestar Harbaur)
- Alcapa (Raundbeck)